



RMHC
of the Southwest

December 2024

around the **HOUSE**

3413 10th Street • Lubbock, TX 79415 • 806.744.8877
RMHCsouthwest.com



GRATEFUL FOR THE UNEXPECTED

Christmas is the perfect time of year to share about the miraculous, unexpected, and stressful arrivals of our tiniest and mightiest fighters. Fighters like Annabeth Sumner who was born at just 23 weeks. At 1 pound and 3 ounces, Annabeth needed round-the-clock care in the NICU. Annabeth's family needed a place to stay so they could care for their newest miracle and support her as she grew. They needed RMHC of the Southwest. *Read more inside*

From the Desk of the President & CEO



As we move through 2024, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for your ongoing support of Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Southwest. **Each year, we are reminded that the true strength of our mission lies not only in the services we provide but in the generous community that stands behind us.**

This year, we have witnessed the profound impact of your contributions—whether through your time, your financial support, or the kindness you show to our children and families. Thanks to you, we've been able to continue offering vital programs and services that ease the burdens of families with children facing medical challenges. **You help create a space where they can focus on what truly matters: the well-being of their children.**

In 2024, we have seen countless examples of how your efforts, big and small, make a difference. From the volunteers who spend hours serving meals and providing comfort, to the donors who make it possible for us to expand our reach, every action contributes to something truly special. It is a testament to the power of community and how, when we come together, we can make an extraordinary impact.

I am continually inspired by the generosity of our supporters, and I am deeply grateful to each and every one of you. As we head towards the end of the year, we are reminded of the importance of connection and collaboration. **It is your support that allows us to continue our mission and touch the lives of families in ways that will stay with them long after their time with us.**

On behalf of our families, our staff, and our board, thank you for being a part of this incredible journey. Together, we are making a lasting difference.

Warm regards,

Emmanuel Ramirez

Emmanuel Ramirez
President & CEO



*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the
RMHC Family!*

Board of Directors

Todd Hardin, Board Chair

Christi Felton, Board Secretary

Paul Dannevik, Board Treasurer

Brian Payne, MD, Chair Elect

Reagan Arp

Shannon Bates

Bill Cohen

Lori Dyess

Kim Koontz

Christopher Snowberger

Russell Tippin

Briana Vela

Sydney Witte

The Sumner Family



Celebrating the birth of a child is one of the greatest joys a family experiences. For RMHC families, the joy is also frequently combined with the stress of having a preemie baby who needs extra care. The Sumner Family felt that joy and stress this year when their youngest, Annabeth, was born at just 23 weeks.

"She was the size of my palm," Annabeth's mom, Christina recalls.

At 1 pound and 3 ounces, Annabeth was immediately admitted to the NICU after her birth. While there was no definite timeline, Christina and her husband, Anthony, knew the journey to being discharged from the NICU would take time, Christina couldn't comprehend leaving her newborn daughter alone at the hospital.



"I was freaking out because there was no way I was going to be able to afford driving back and forth just to be with her."

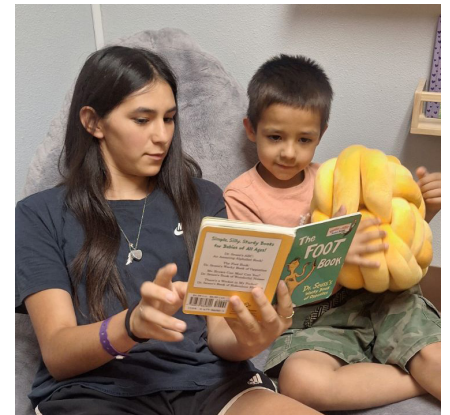
The Sumner Family is from Roaring Springs, a town with a population of less than 500 people, about 77 miles northeast of Lubbock. They weren't sure how to manage keeping their family together, until they learned about the Ronald McDonald House. Their family stayed at the House for a total of 111 nights this past summer.

"Staying at the House was a blessing," Christina said.

Christina and Anthony's older kids, Elizabeth, Jaylyn, and Waylon, were also able to stay at the House and make it their temporary home.

Waylon loved playing in the basement game room and enjoyed the fun of our 4th of

July cookout. Elizabeth and Jaylyn just liked to hang out in the living room or their private guest room. Christina was happy she could focus on Annabeth's health instead of worrying about cooking or cleaning. And, Anthony was happy his family had a safe place to stay.



We checked in with the family this November to see how they were doing. At 5 months old, Annabeth weighs 8 pounds and no longer has to use supplemental oxygen.

"Annabeth is thriving!"

Christina is delighted to have all her kids, happy and healthy, under one roof especially as we head into the holidays.

To our donors and volunteers, Christina wanted to share a heartfelt thank you: **"Without you, I wouldn't have been able to have family time while my child was in the hospital."**

Annabeth was able to grow big and strong with her family at her side, thanks to you.

No one expects their child to get ill or injured or be born 17 weeks early. We need your help to make sure that kids don't have to fight illness and injury alone. Families like Annabeth's need you in their corner. Please donate today to keep families by their kids' sides.

P.S. The enclosed envelope makes it easy and free for you to send in your donation today. You can also visit RMHCsouthwest.com to give securely online.

2024: Snapshots from a Year of Keeping Families Close



January: Put your hands up and celebrate! What a great way to start off 2024 with families going home. Baby Kataella, who was born 9 weeks early, and mom, Bianca, got to go home in January after 31 nights at the Ronald McDonald House.



March: Presented by LBK Roofing, our signature fundraising event got a name change to the Red Shoe Gala. We were reminded that there is "No Place Like Home" as we spent the night somewhere over the rainbow, raising money for families who come to call RMHC home while their child receives medical care. Thanks to our generous community it was our best year yet!



April: We were gifted a wheelchair accessible shuttle bus thanks to the generosity of District 2T2 Lions Clubs, Lions Clubs International Foundation, and Texas Lions Club Foundation. The shuttle bus went all over town on fun trips for our families this summer. It has also been used to transport families to and from doctor's appointments, shopping, and more.



July: We kicked off our 23rd season of Quarterback S.A.C.K. presented by United Supermarkets. Raider Red and Coach McGuire hyped us up for the Texas Tech Football season. We also heard the story of the June Family, who stayed with RMHC when their daughter Hayden had life-threatening pneumonia. Hayden and her family joined us to get their "guns up" and celebrate supporting families like theirs.



October: Our 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat was a huge success! We had 85 trunks & games, mini horses, food trucks, 315 volunteers, and over 1000 visitors! Holidays are always special at the Ronald McDonald House and we are grateful to our community for making fun days like this possible.

Your Impact:
Jan-Nov



235
families stayed in the House



1074
total guest count



19
nights at the House per family (average stay)



473
families served in the Family Rooms

Winter

Spring

Summer

Fall



February: We were surprised by snow at the House. Not letting the snow get our families down, one of our relief managers stepped in to teach one of our young House guests, Maggie, how to make snow ice cream.

4



March: Easter Eggstravaganza at the House featured plenty of hidden eggs, good food, and fun for the families at the House, thanks to our friends at LBK Roofing. It was a great afternoon that allowed our families to relax and remember that spending time together is the most important part of the holidays.



July: We celebrated 4th of July at the House with water guns, slip 'n slides, and a cookout, thanks to our friends at Walmart. One of our RMHC kids, Grayson, who is staying at the House while he undergoes cancer treatment said that these events for families are one of his favorite things about staying here.



September: Our 4th Annual "Show Us Your Stripes" Golf Tournament was a blast! Presented by McDonald's, we had our most profitable year yet. We also got to watch one of our RMHC kids, Dayton Price, in action on the course. Dayton's family stayed at the House after he was in a tragic car accident with his college golf team. Two years later, his progress is incredible. We are so proud of Dayton and grateful for a community that supports transformations like his.



November: We celebrated the 2nd anniversary of our Ronald McDonald Family Room at Midland Memorial Hospital. The Family Room has allowed us to serve even more families in the Permian Basin. Thank you to the Carrillo Family who support our presence in Midland by dedicating the Family Room in honor of Jesse and Anne Carrillo and installing a beautiful mural to highlight the room.

Thanks for Giving: We're Grateful for You!

It is the season of gratitude, and at RMHC of the Southwest we are grateful to the many amazing people who are part of "keeping families close". Our volunteers, donors, and advocates make a huge impact on families who have a child receiving medical care. At our Thanks for Giving luncheon, we were able to celebrate some of those amazing people. Our 2024 award winners are:



Susan Credle
Jim Murray Heroes Award



BrightStar Care of Lubbock
Junior League of Lubbock Award



District 2T2 Lions Clubs, Lions Clubs International Foundation, & Texas Lions Clubs Foundation
Richard Ligon Service Award



Jeffrey G. Carson
Time Award



Lynn County 4-H
Time Award



Alpha Delta Pi
Time Award



James Lane & Walmart #4299
Time Award



Whiting-Turner Contracting Company
Talent Award



Hillcrest Ladies Sewing Group
Talent Award



Garrett Kennedy
Talent Award



Fused Graphics Group
Talent Award



Barry & Diane Altman
Treasure Award



H-E-B
Treasure Award



Walmart- Market 71
Treasure Award



Constellation Brands, Southern Glazer's, & Amicis Wine Bar
Treasure Award

Memorials & Honorariums

July through October 2024

In memory of:

Gail Brock

Steve and Tresa Sparks

Betty Claborn

Barry and Diane Altman

T.C. Gattis

Leslie Gattis

Joy Key

Larry and Marsha Jo Sullenger

Leslie Lieberick

Harry and Pam Zalewski

Rondelle Newton

Plainview Professional

Firefighters No. 3142

Harold Roberts

Steve and Tresa Sparks

Lynette Schlandt

Rusty and Linda Andrews

Ron Skorick

Hillcrest Manor Ladies

Melba Ward

Johnny and LaJuana Quarles

Catherine Watts

Rodney Dean

In honor of:

Ricky and Traci Hobbs

Barry and Diane Altman

Hayden June

Frank and Renee June

Eric and Suzanne Rosemann

Service Compression, LLC

Leela Warburg Pincus

Thomas Wisby

Aleesha Hightower

Memorials and honorariums give tribute to your loved ones while supporting families who have a child receiving medical care. We are grateful to the those who choose to show their love and respect for their family and friends through a gift to RMHC.

Bring Smiles for Years to Come



Sara enjoying swinging on the RMHC playground and having her parents nearby while she undergoes cancer treatment

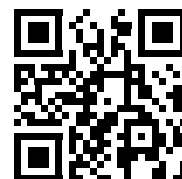
Our vision is to create a world where every family has what they need to ensure the best health outcomes for their children. For a child like Sara, that includes needs like taking a break from cancer treatment on the swing at the Ronald McDonald House.

We need your support to make our vision become a reality. When you choose to include RMHC of the Southwest in your plans, either as part of your will or with a current gift, you help create stability and security for families with children receiving medical care.

The end of year is a great time to consider donating differently, such as stock giving, IRA giving, and giving through your will. If you would like to give a gift that helps RMHC families of today and tomorrow, please contact Emmanuel Ramirez, President & CEO, at (806) 744-8877 or emmanuel@rmhcsouthwest.com

More Ways to Give:

From rounding-up at McDonald's to hosting a fundraiser to donating a vehicle, there are so many ways to give before 2024 ends. Learn more at RMHCSouthwest.com/give

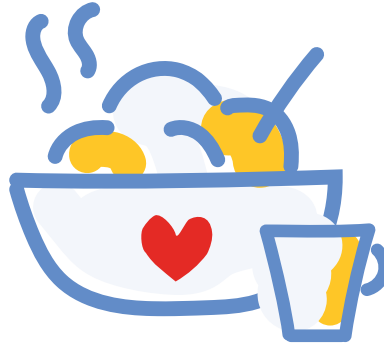


New Year's Resolutions with RMHC!



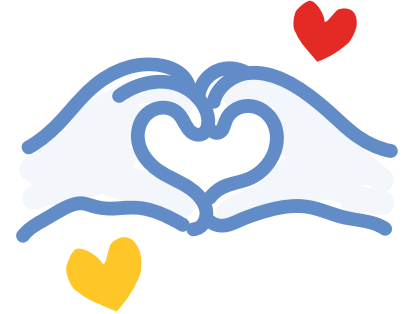
Recycle

You CAN make a difference when you drop off your pop tabs and aluminum cans at RMHC. Your recycling turns into more nights together for RMHC families.



Get Cooking

Want to learn new recipes or spend more time bonding with family and friends? Becoming a Guest Chef at RMHC is the perfect way to spend time together, and up your culinary skills.



Give Back

\$100 provides a family with a one night stay at the House. That means more time together when kids need mom and dad the most. Any amount makes a difference in keeping families together.

Learn more on our website: [RMHCsouthwest.com](https://www.rmhc.org)